



MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1971

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH
Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee

Chairman:- H. A. Orbell, Esq.

Councillors:- H. V. Aveling
F. A. Clark
D. A. Dagless
Mrs. D. Fleming
M. K. Ogden
G. E. Tribe

Medical Officer of Health

J. C. Burns, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
County Hall, March. Telephone: March 2471

Public Health Inspector

H. Burton, M.A.P.H.I.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1971

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1971 together with a report from the Public Health Inspector.

I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee for their interest and support and to my colleagues on the Council's staff for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. BURNS

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Area in acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,786
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate for 1971)	..							14,230
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..		5,319
Number of dwellings owned by the Council	..				..	..	..	1,100
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1972)	..				..	..	..	£554,653
Amount represented by estimated 1p. rate 1971/72..						..	..	£5,195

The area of the Urban District remained unchanged at 19,786 acres and the estimated population increased by 170 to 14,230. Whilst the main forms of employment remain much the same as in former years it is noticeable that some useful changes are taking place. On the agricultural side mechanical equipment continues to expand and the allied undertakings associated with the preparation and packaging of vegetables has increased. A new commercial undertaking engaged in the preparation of meat products started during the year and has obviously been successful since expansion has taken place during the year - more staff being employed. In the industrial sphere useful additions have been established amongst which may be noted concrete pipe making, bag making, and metalwork.

Vital Statistics

Live Births

Number	(Male 111)					
	()					
	(Female 122)					
		Total	..	..		233
Rate per 1,000 population		..	..	..	..	16.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births					..	4

Stillbirths

Number	(Male	2)				
	(	)	Total	..	..	3
	(Female	1)				
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			..	..	..	13

Total Live and Stillbirths

(Male 113)				
()				
(Female 123)				
	Total	..	..	236

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)

(Male	1)			
()			
(Female	2)			
		Total	..	3

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)								
Number of deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
Death rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.3

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	1	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Intenstine	2	4	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	10	-	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	8	2	10
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	-	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	2	3	5
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	2	1	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	25	15	40
Other Forms of Heart Disease	8	5	13
Cerebrovascular Disease	12	15	27
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	2	6
Pneumonia	3	6	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	3	8
Other diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	-	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc	-	1	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	2	3	5
All other external causes	-	1	1
	<hr/> 98	<hr/> 77	<hr/> 175

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups:-

Under 1 year	1.7
1 - 4 years	.6
5 - 14 years	-
15 - 64 years	18.3
65 and over	79.4
	<hr/> 100.0

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	307
Scarlet Fever	9
Infective Jaundice	6
Dysentery	6
Whooping Cough	18
Acute Encephalitis	1
	<hr/> 347

Once again it is worthwhile drawing attention to the fact that preventative immunisation is valuable against measles and whooping cough. Parents should therefore make use of the facilities available through their General Practitioners to provide the necessary protection for their children at an early age.

Food Hygiene

This continues to receive constant attention and supervision. Consideration was given to the introduction of a suitable notice emphasising the undesirability of dogs being allowed on premises where food is exposed for sale. The Council fully endorsed this measure which was also implemented during the year. It was pleasing to note that the notice was favourably received for display by the food traders.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported during 1971.

National Assistance Act

No action was necessary under this Act during 1971.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1971 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF MARCH IN THE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE
AND ISLE OF ELY
Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities				
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	10	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2			
TOTAL	45	10	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H. M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work					
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosec- utions (7)
Wearing) Making etc apparel)						
Cleaning & washing						
Household linen						
Lace, lace curtains and nets						
Curtains and furniture hangings						
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel cables and chains						
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches and keys						
Umbrellas, etc.						
Artificial flowers						
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents						
Sacks	48					
Racquet and tennis balls						
Paper bags						
C/fwd.	48					

PART VIII OF THE ACT (CONTD.)

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosec- utions (7)
B/fwd.	48					
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding etc. of buttons etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolate and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christ- mas stockings etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	48					

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health Inspector's Report for the year 1971

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are details of visits, interviews, inspections and re-inspections carried out in 1971:-

Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Animals or birds	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Cold Store	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Fish Shops and Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Food Hygiene	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Food Prep. Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Food Vans	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
General Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Housing P. H. Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	187
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Interviews	..	..	..	..	..	..	230
Knackers Yard	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Launderettes	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Market Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Milk Shops and Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Noise	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pet Animals Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Petrol	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Poultry Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Scrap Metal	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	593
Swimming Pool	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Vermin	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Vermin - R. & M.	..	..	..	..	..	..	163
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
							<hr/>
							1,711
							<hr/>

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under the various Acts.

	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
<u>Sanitary Accommodation and Drains</u>		
Defective sanitary accommodation	2	2
Blocked and defective drains	12	12
<u>Infestations</u>		
Rats and mice (including visits by Rodent Operator)	115	115
Ants, etc.	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
C/Fwd.	130	130

	B/fwd.	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
		130	130
<u>Housing defects</u>			
Defective windows		10	9
" walls		1	1
" roofs		5	4
" floors		1	1
" ceilings		3	2
" stairs		1	1
" doors		2	2
" fireplace		1	1
Accumulations		6	6
<u>Food Hygiene</u>			
Mould on pie		1	
Smoking in food premises		1	1
Cleanliness		1	1
Address on stall		1	1
<u>Shops Act</u>			
Cleanliness		3	3
Wash basin		1	1
Abstracts		2	2
Blocked exit		1	1
Clothing Accommodation		1	1
<u>Noise Abatement Act</u>			
Factory Noise		1	1
Muffler on drill		1	1
		<hr/> 174	<hr/> 170

Table of Notices served during 1971

		Served during	Complied with by
		1971	31/12/71
Public Health & Housing Acts	Verbal	23	20
	Letter	6	6
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	Verbal	115	115
Food Hygiene Regulations	Verbal	4	4
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	Verbal	2	2
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963	Verbal	10	10
	Letter	1	1
		<u>161</u>	<u>158</u>

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

Under the above Act, 172 premises are registered and 58 inspections were made during the year. The tables above show the defects found and remedied.

HOUSING

It is interesting to note that during 1971, the Council made 6 Demolition Orders. 19 houses were actually demolished (including Orders from the previous year) and 6 families were rehoused.

One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during 1971.

DRAINAGE

Further to the comments made in the 1970 Report satisfaction is felt by knowledge of the fact that discussions between the Consultants and the Department of the Environment are continuing and it is expected that it will not be so long before necessary remedial works are started along with the recommended extensions for the district.

WATER SUPPLIES

The following is the information requested by the Ministry:-

- (a) whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity;
Yes.
- (b) where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; and the results of any chemical analyses; information on the fluoride content of the various supplies should be included wherever possible;

The following is the report of the Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wisbech and District Water Board:-

"Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1971 on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

The fluoride content of a sample of water from the Water Board Offices, Oldfield Lane, Wisbech (mixture of water from Marham and Beechamwell) taken on the 29th November, 1971, was NIL.

There were no cases of contamination of the water supply in March Urban District during 1971."

Bacteriological Samples Taken in the March Urban District			
<u>Total Tests Taken</u>	<u>No. of Tests Negative</u>	<u>No. of Tests Positive</u>	<u>% Negative Tests</u>
53	53	0	100%

- (c) where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including the precautions taken and the number and result of analyses;

The water is hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.

- (d) the action taken in respect of any form of contamination;

There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.

/(e)

WATER SUPPLIES (CONTD.)

- (e) the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (i) direct to the houses, and (ii) by means of stand-pipes.

(i) direct to houses	-	100%
(ii) by means of stand-pipes	-	Nil

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There is one licensed site in the area for nine caravans and a further three licences are operative in respect of four caravans.

SWIMMING POOL

The open air heated swimming pool (110' x 42') was opened in May, 1965 and in addition to the daily checks carried out by the staff, 12 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. All were satisfactory. The water is chlorinated there being a six hour turnover.

There are three schools with swimming pools and satisfactory samples at monthly intervals were taken from each school during the summer.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

At present two premises are registered under the above Act and these are subject to inspection by the R.S.P.C.A. and myself.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 (as amended)

No applications were submitted for approval during 1971.

RATS AND MICE

The refuse dumps are treated monthly and the sewers are dealt with annually. Infestation in the sewers is almost negligible.

Following the retirement of the Council's Rodent Operator, a private Contractor is now employed to deal with infestation generally. A free service is given when infestation occurs in private dwellings and shops.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

Under the above Acts, 49 licences were issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit, 1 for the storage of Calcium Carbide and 1 for the storage of Petroleum Mixtures.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

Two slaughterhouses were licensed during 1971 and the number of animals killed during the year at the two slaughterhouses is as follows:-

370 Beasts, 196 sheep and 3124 pigs and 1 calf giving a total of 3691.

In order to inspect these animals a total of 593 visits was required to the two slaughterhouses.

14 slaughtermen's licences were issued during 1971.

Condemnations include the following whole carcasses:-

21 pigs which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcasses brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 1 ton, 3 cwts, 2 ctrs and 20 lbs.

There is also one Knacker's Yard in this area.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned
from 1st January, 1971 to 31st December, 1971

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	370	-	1	196	3124	-
Number Inspected	370	-	1	196	3124	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	21	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	1	-	27	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	1.62	-	100.00	-	1.21	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	4	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.12	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Food Hygiene

The Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information:-

- (1) the number, if available, of food premises in the area by type of business:-

Green grocery	5
Grocery	23
Butchers	16
Fish shops	11
Bakehouses	3
Confectionery	15
Cafes and restaurants	7
Ice cream manufacturers	2
Chemists	4
	<hr/>
	86
	<hr/>

In addition, there are some 41 licensed premises including clubs.

- (2) the number of food premises by type registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts:-

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	35
Premises registered for the preparation of meat pies and sausages	17
Premises registered for the sale of fish and chips	11

- (3) the number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary:-

Inspections of registered food premises and other food shops generally (including slaughterhouses) are shown on page 8.

- (4) any new educational activity and the progress of established educational activity:-

New posters are regularly exhibited relating to food hygiene and other matters. A talk was given on Public Health work to pupils at a local junior school.

- (5) the methods of disposal of condemned food:-

Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc. the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the slaughterhouses is collected by Contractors and processed.

- (6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity condemned:-

Page 11 shows the weight of meat condemned.

- (7) reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952:-

9 samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge. All 9 samples were classified Grade 1.

At the end of the year 35 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There are two manufacturers in the area.

- (8) reference to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1970:-

144 visits and re-visits were made to food premises during 1971 for compliance with the above Regulations. In addition 593 visits were paid to the local slaughterhouses.

The Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969

The above Regulations require meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised before entering the chain of distribution. Notifications are received from Port Health Authorities of consignments of food to this area which are to be held in cold store pending disposal for sterilisation and in this respect 19 visits were paid to the Cold Store during 1971.

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

The above Regulations which became operative on the 1st January, 1967 lay down requirements as to food hygiene in respect of markets, stalls and delivery vehicles. In this respect regular visits are paid to the stalls on the market and mobile vans are inspected. Where contraventions on mobile vans are found the van owner is informed and also the Public Health Department in whose area the van is stationed and this system appears to work very well in practice.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Some complaints have been received under this Act, including noise from car repairs, whine from poultry food mixer, noise from planing machine at joinery works, noise from sheet metal works, cockerels crowing. These complaints were not always found to be justified.

Poultry

Regular visits are paid to the local market where poultry carcasses are sold, the carcasses in this case having been 'plucked' but not eviscerated. A joint visit is paid with an inspector for the Food and Drugs Authority to the local Christmas poultry sales.

In conclusion I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and my colleagues on the Staff for their helpful co-operation, and particularly Mr. Littler, the Clerk of the Council, for his valuable advice and assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BURTON,

Public Health Inspector.

